What is claimed is:

1. A method for avoiding starvation at an initiator node in a computer network to which are connected at least one target node which provides service and a plurality of initiator nodes which request service from said target node, said method comprising the operations of:

when a request is received from said initiator node during a period that said target node is unable to provide service, returning a reject reply by attaching thereto reject time information that matches said period;

when said target node is in a state capable of providing service, preferentially accepting a retry request carrying older reject time information; and

when said target node is in the state capable of providing service, returning a reject reply by attaching thereto new reject time information in response to any first request received before retry requests arising previously rejected requests are all accepted.

2. A method for avoiding starvation at an initiator node in a computer network to which are connected at least one target node which provides service and a plurality of initiator nodes which request service from said target node, said method comprising the operations of:

(a) when a first request is received at said target node when said target node is in a state capable of providing service, accepting said first request;

(b) when a first request is received at said target node after said target node has moved to a state incapable of providing service, returning a reject reply in response to said first request by attaching thereto reject time information consisting of at least one bit;

(c) when a retry request is received at said target node after said target node is restored to the state capable of providing service, accepting said retry

request depending on the reject time information attached to said retry request; and

(d) at said target node staying in the state capable of providing service, when a retry request is received, processing said retry request in the same manner as in said operation (c), while when a first request is received, returning a reject reply by attaching thereto reject time information.

3. A method for avoiding starvation at an initiator node in a computer network to which are connected at least one target node which provides service and a plurality of initiator nodes which request service from said target node, said method comprising the operations of:

(a) at said target node, initializing to 0 all of a first parameter CE consisting of at least one bit, a second parameter SE consisting of the same number of bits as the number of bits of said first parameter, a third parameter CC consisting of the number of bits of determined by the number of said plurality of initiator nodes, and a fourth parameter SC consisting of the same number of bits as the number of bits of said third parameter;

(b) at said initiator node, sending a first request to said target node;

(c) when said first request is received at said target node, if CE = SE and SC = 0 and if said target node is in a state capable of providing service, accepting said first request;

(d) when said first request is received at said target node, if CE = SE and SC > 0 or if CE = SE and said target node is in a state incapable of providing service, incrementing said CE, setting said CC to 1, and returning a reject reply by attaching thereto the value of said CE in response to said first request;

(e) when said first request is received at said target node, if CE ≠ SE, incrementing said CC and

returning a reject reply by attaching thereto the value of said CE;

(f) at said initiator node that received said reject reply, sending a retry request to said target node by attaching thereto a fifth parameter RE whose value is equal to the value of said CE attached to said reject reply;

(g) when said retry request is received at said target node, if CE = SE and SC = 0 and if said target node is in the state capable of providing service, accepting said retry request;

(h) when said retry request is received at said target node, if RE = SE+1 and SC = 0 and if said target node is in the state capable of providing service, incrementing said SE, setting said SC to CC-1, and accepting said retry request;

(i) when said retry request is received at said target node, if RE = SE and SC > 0 and if said target node is in the state capable of providing service, decrementing said SC and accepting said retry request; and

(j) when said retry request is received at said target node, if any of execution conditions in said operations (g), (i), and (j) is not satisfied, returning a reject reply by attaching thereto the value of said RE in response to said retry request.

4. A method carried out at a target node for avoiding starvation at an initiator node in a computer network to which are connected at least one target node which provides service and a plurality of initiator nodes which request service from said target node, said method comprising the operations of:

(a) initializing to 0 all of a first parameter CE consisting of at least one bit, a second parameter SE consisting of the same number of bits as the number of bits of said first parameter, a third parameter CC consisting of the number of bits of determined by the

number of said plurality of initiator nodes, and a fourth parameter SC consisting of the same number of bits as the number of bits of said third parameter;

(b) when a first request is received, if CE = SE and SC = 0 and if said target node is in a state capable of providing service, accepting said first request;

(c) when a first request is received, if CE = SE and SC > 0 or if CE = SE and said target node is in a state incapable of providing service, incrementing said CE, setting said CC to 1, and returning a reject reply by attaching thereto the value of said CE in response to said first request;

(d) when a first request is received, if CE ≠ SE, incrementing said CC and returning a reject reply by attaching thereto the value of said CE;

(e) when a retry request is received, if CE = SE and SC = 0 and if said target node is in the state capable of providing service, accepting said retry request;

(f) when a retry request is received, if RE = SE+1 and SC = 0 and if said target node is in the state capable of providing service, incrementing said SE, setting said SC to CC-1, and accepting said retry request;

(g) when a retry request is received, if RE = SE and SC > 0 and if said target node is in the state capable of providing service, decrementing said SC and accepting said retry request; and

(h) when a retry request is received, if any of execution conditions in said operations (e), (f), and (g) is not satisfied, returning a reject reply by attaching thereto the value of said RE in response to said retry request.

5. A method carried out at an initiator node for avoiding starvation at said initiator node in a computer network to which are connected at least one target node

which provides service and a plurality of initiator nodes which request service from said target node, said method comprising the operations of:

(a) sending a first request to said target node; and

(b) when a reject reply is received in response to said first request, sending a retry request by attaching thereto a parameter whose value is equal to the value of a parameter of reject time information attached to said reject reply.

6. An apparatus for avoiding starvation at an initiator node in a computer network to which are connected at least one target node which provides service and a plurality of initiator nodes which request service from said target node, said apparatus comprising:

means for, when a request is received from said initiator node during a period that said target node is unable to provide service, returning a reject reply by attaching thereto reject time information that matches said period;

means for, when said target node is in a state capable of providing service, preferentially accepting a retry request carrying older reject time information; and

means for, when said target node is in the state capable of providing service, returning a reject reply by attaching thereto new reject time information in response to any first request received before retry requests arising previously rejected requests are all accepted.

7. An apparatus for avoiding starvation at an initiator node in a computer network to which are connected at least one target node which provides service and a plurality of initiator nodes which request service from said target node, said apparatus comprising:

first means for, when a first request is received at said target node when said target node is in

a state capable of providing service, accepting said first request;

second means for, when a first request is received at said target node after said target node has moved to a state incapable of providing service, returning a reject reply in response to said first request by attaching thereto reject time information consisting of at least one bit;

third means for, when a retry request is received at said target node after said target node is restored to the state capable of providing service, accepting said retry request depending on the reject time information attached to said retry request; and

fourth means for, at said target node staying in the state capable of providing service, when a retry request is received, processing said retry request in the same manner as processed by said third means, while when a first request is received, returning a reject reply by attaching thereto reject time information.

8. An apparatus for avoiding starvation at an initiator node in a computer network to which are connected at least one target node which provides service and a plurality of initiator nodes which request service from said target node, said apparatus comprising:

first means for, at said target node, initializing to 0 all of a first parameter CE consisting of at least one bit, a second parameter SE consisting of the same number of bits as the number of bits of said first parameter, a third parameter CC consisting of the number of bits of determined by the number of said plurality of initiator nodes, and a fourth parameter SC consisting of the same number of bits as the number of bits of said third parameter;

second means for, at said initiator node, sending a first request to said target node; third means for, when said first request is received at said target

node, if CE = SE and SC = 0 and if said target node is in a state capable of providing service, accepting said first request;

fourth means for, when said first request is received at said target node, if CE = SE and SC > 0 or if CE = SE and said target node is in a state incapable of providing service, incrementing said CE, setting said CC to 1, and returning a reject reply by attaching thereto the value of said CE in response to said first request;

fifth means for, when said first request is received at said target node, if CE ≠ SE, incrementing said CC and returning a reject reply by attaching thereto the value of said CE;

sixth means for, at said initiator node that received said reject reply, sending a retry request to said target node by attaching thereto a fifth parameter RE whose value is equal to the value of said CE attached to said reject reply;

seventh means for, when said retry request is received at said target node, if CE = SE and SC = 0 and if said target node is in the state capable of providing service, accepting said retry request;

eighth means for, when said retry request is received at said target node, if RE = SE+1 and SC = 0 and if said target node is in the state capable of providing service, incrementing said SE, setting said SC to CC-1, and accepting said retry request;

ninth means for, when said retry request is received at said target node, if RE = SE and SC > 0 and if said target node is in the state capable of providing service, decrementing said SC and accepting said retry request; and

tenth means for, when said retry request is received at said target node, if any of operation conditions in said seventh, eighth, and ninth means is not satisfied, returning a reject reply by attaching

thereto the value of said RE in response to said retry request.

9. An apparatus provided at a target node for avoiding starvation at an initiator node in a computer network to which are connected at least one target node which provides service and a plurality of initiator nodes which request service from said target node, said apparatus comprising:

first means for initializing to 0 all of a first parameter CE consisting of at least one bit, a second parameter SE consisting of the same number of bits as the number of bits of said first parameter, a third parameter CC consisting of the number of bits of determined by the number of said plurality of initiator nodes, and a fourth parameter SC consisting of the same number of bits as the number of bits of said third parameter;

second means for, when a first request is received, if CE = SE and SC = 0 and if said target node is in a state capable of providing service, accepting said first request;

third means for, when a first request is received, if CE = SE and SC > 0 or if CE = SE and said target node is in a state incapable of providing service, incrementing said CE, setting said CC to 1, and returning a reject reply by attaching thereto the value of said CE in response to said first request;

fourth means for, when a first request is received, if CE ≠ SE, incrementing said CC and returning a reject reply by attaching thereto the value of said CE;

fifth means for, when a retry request is received, if CE = SE and SC = 0 and if said target node is in the state capable of providing service, accepting said retry request;

sixth means for, when a retry request is received, if RE = SE+1 and SC = 0 and if said target node is in the state capable of providing service,

incrementing said SE, setting said SC to CC-1, and accepting said retry request;

seventh means for, when a retry request is received, if RE = SE and SC > 0 and if said target node is in the state capable of providing service, decrementing said SC and accepting said retry request; and

eighth means for, when a retry request is received, if any of operation conditions in said fifth, sixth, and seventh means is not satisfied, returning a reject reply by attaching thereto the value of said RE in response to said retry request.

10. An apparatus provided at an initiator node for avoiding starvation at said initiator node in a computer network to which are connected at least one target node which provides service and a plurality of initiator nodes which request service from said target node, said apparatus comprising:

means for sending a first request to said target node; and

means for, when a reject reply is received in response to said first request, sending a retry request by attaching thereto a parameter whose value is equal to the value of a parameter of reject time information attached to said reject reply.

11. A recording medium readable by an apparatus for avoiding starvation at an initiator node in a computer network to which are connected at least one target node which provides service and a plurality of initiator nodes which request service from said target node, said recording medium having stored thereon a program for implementing:

a facility for, when a request is received from said initiator node during a period that said target node is unable to provide service, returning a reject reply by attaching thereto reject time information that matches said period;

a facility for, when said target node is in a state capable of providing service, preferentially accepting a retry request carrying older reject time information; and

a facility for, when said target node is in the state capable of providing service, returning a reject reply by attaching thereto new reject time information in response to any first request received before retry requests arising previously rejected requests are all accepted.

12. A recording medium readable by an apparatus for avoiding starvation at an initiator node in a computer network to which are connected at least one target node which provides service and a plurality of initiator nodes which request service from said target node, said recording medium having stored thereon a program for implementing:

a first facility for, when a first request is received at said target node when said target node is in a state capable of providing service, accepting said first request;

a second facility for, when a first request is received at said target node after said target node has moved to a state incapable of providing service, returning a reject reply in response to said first request by attaching thereto reject time information consisting of at least one bit;

a third facility for, when a retry request is received at said target node after said target node is restored to the state capable of providing service, accepting said retry request depending on the reject time information attached to said retry request; and

a fourth facility for, at said target node staying in the state capable of providing service, when a retry request is received, processing said retry request in the same manner as processed by said third facility, while when a first request is received, returning a

reject reply by attaching thereto reject time information.

13. A recording medium readable by an apparatus for avoiding starvation at an initiator node in a computer network to which are connected at least one target node which provides service and a plurality of initiator nodes which request service from said target node, said recording medium having stored thereon a program for implementing:

a first facility for, at said target node, initializing to 0 all of a first parameter CE consisting of at least one bit, a second parameter SE consisting of the same number of bits as the number of bits of said first parameter, a third parameter CC consisting of the number of bits of determined by the number of said plurality of initiator nodes, and a fourth parameter SC consisting of the same number of bits as the number of bits of said third parameter;

a second facility for, at said initiator node, sending a first request to said target node;

a third facility for, when said first request is received at said target node, if CE = SE and SC = 0 and if said target node is in a state capable of providing service, accepting said first request;

a fourth facility for, when said first request is received at said target node, if CE = SE and SC > 0 or if CE = SE and said target node is in a state incapable of providing service, incrementing said CE, setting said CC to 1, and returning a reject reply by attaching thereto the value of said CE in response to said first request;

a fifth facility for, when said first request is received at said target node, if CE ≠ SE, incrementing said CC and returning a reject reply by attaching thereto the value of said CE;

a sixth facility for, at said initiator node that received said reject reply, sending a retry

request to said target node by attaching thereto a fifth parameter RE whose value is equal to the value of said CE attached to said reject reply;

a seventh facility for, when said retry request is received at said target node, if CE = SE and SC = 0 and if said target node is in the state capable of providing service, accepting said retry request;

an eighth facility for, when said retry request is received at said target node, if RE = SE+1 and SC = 0 and if said target node is in the state capable of providing service, incrementing said SE, setting said SC to CC-1, and accepting said retry request;

a ninth facility for, when said retry request is received at said target node, if RE = SE and SC > 0 and if said target node is in the state capable of providing service, decrementing said SC and accepting said retry request; and

a tenth facility for, when said retry request is received at said target node, if any of operation conditions in said seventh, eighth, and ninth facilities is not satisfied, returning a reject reply by attaching thereto the value of said RE in response to said retry request.

14. A recording medium readable by a target node in a computer network to which are connected at least one target node which provides service and a plurality of initiator nodes which request service from said target node, said recording medium having stored thereon a starvation avoiding program for implementing:

a first facility for initializing to 0 all of a first parameter CE consisting of at least one bit, a second parameter SE consisting of the same number of bits as the number of bits of said first parameter, a third parameter CC consisting of the number of bits of determined by the number of said plurality of initiator nodes, and a fourth parameter SC consisting of the same number of bits as the number of bits of said third

parameter;

a second facility for, when a first request is received, if CE = SE and SC = 0 and if said target node is in a state capable of providing service, accepting said first request;

a third facility for, when a first request is received, if CE = SE and SC > 0 or if CE = SE and said target node is in a state incapable of providing service, incrementing said CE, setting said CC to 1, and returning a reject reply by attaching thereto the value of said CE in response to said first request;

a fourth facility for, when a first request is received, if CE ≠ SE, incrementing said CC and returning a reject reply by attaching thereto the value of said CE;

a fifth facility for, when a retry request is received, if CE = SE and SC = 0 and if said target node is in the state capable of providing service, accepting said retry request;

a sixth facility for, when a retry request is received, if RE = SE+1 and SC = 0 and if said target node is in the state capable of providing service, incrementing said SE, setting said SC to CC-1, and accepting said retry request;

a seventh facility for, when a retry request is received, if RE = SE and SC > 0 and if said target node is in the state capable of providing service, decrementing said SC and accepting said retry request; and

an eighth facility for, when a retry request is received, if any of operation conditions in said fifth, sixth, and seventh facilities is not satisfied, returning a reject reply by attaching thereto the value of said RE in response to said retry request.

15. A recording medium readable by an initiator node in a computer network to which are connected at least one target node which provides service and a

plurality of initiator nodes which request service from said target node, said recording medium having stored thereon a starvation avoiding program for implementing:

a facility for sending a first request to said target node; and

a facility for, when a reject reply is received in response to said first request, sending a retry request by attaching thereto a parameter whose value is equal to the value of a parameter of reject time information attached to said reject reply.